

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases, comprising:

a ceramic block comprising a plurality of rectangular columnar porous ceramic members combined with one another by a sealing material layer ~~to constitute a ceramic block~~, each of the rectangular columnar porous ceramic ~~member comprising~~ members having a plurality of through holes ~~that are placed in~~ extending parallel with one another in a length direction of the ceramic block and separated by ~~[[with]]~~ a partition wall interposed ~~therebetween~~ between the through holes; and

a circumferential sealing material layer formed on a circumference portion of said ceramic block,

wherein~~[[:]]~~ said partition wall ~~which separates said through holes~~ functions as a filter for collecting particulates, and on a cross section perpendicular to the length direction of ~~said porous ceramic member of~~ said ceramic block, said sealing material layer includes at least one crisscross portion in which a maximum width L ~~[[(mm)]]~~ of the crisscross portion of said sealing material layer is 1.5 to 3 times greater than a minimum width l ~~[[(mm)]]~~ of said sealing material layer.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 1, wherein an outer circumferential face in the length direction has a curved face.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 1, wherein ~~on a cross section perpendicular to the length direction of the porous ceramic member of the ceramic block, for each of~~ said at least one crisscross portion of said sealing material layer includes a plurality of ~~[[said]]~~ crisscross portions, ~~the in which a~~

maximum width L [(mm)] of the crisscross ~~portion~~ portions of said sealing material layer is 1.5 to 3 times greater than the minimum width l [(mm)] of said sealing material layer.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 1, further comprising a catalyst supporting film applied to the porous ceramic member.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 1, further comprising a catalyst applied to the porous ceramic member.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 1, further comprising a catalyst supporting film applied to the sealing material layer.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 1, further comprising a catalyst applied to the sealing material layer.